

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Setting: Thomas Chesterton

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Hall, Liturgist

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,

**People: the maker of heaven and earth, who comes to our aid in times of need,
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right, who invites us to turn away from the
influences of the world around us and confess Him alone as Saviour and Lord.**

Leader: This is our God!

People: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN #129 *(see bulletin)*

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Newton/Haydn

*CALL TO CONFESSION

We are so much like Peter. Jesus tells us what it will take to follow him, and we want to argue. Jesus shows us the way to the Kingdom, and we seek a smoother path. Let us put down all that keeps us from following Jesus, as we confess our sins to God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord, we confess this day our struggle to be transformed into your disciples. The desires of the world seem to have the ability to shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, the oppressed. Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service. Speak to us now in these quiet moments of worship...

Our prayers continue in silence...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: It's too easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live like servants, we will find true freedom.

**People: Not only our minds, but our hearts and spirits will be transformed into the likeness of Christ,
enabling us to be faithful disciples.**

Thanks be to God. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

*HYMN #134 *(see bulletin)*

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!”

Dwight/Williams

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Domine Deus, Rex Coelestis”

Boëly

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, before your word is spoken, wrestle with us until we cannot look away. Open our ears to hear what we would rather not hear, and our hearts to hold what we cannot yet understand. Speak to us now, and do not let us go until we have received your blessing. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Psalm 124:1-8

ANTHEM

“In Christ Alone”

Getty/Harlan

SECOND READING:

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

“Being the Church Together”

Rev. Rick Douylliez

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN #131** (*see bulletin*)

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Stone/S. Wesley

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this place, remember the question Jesus asks: “*Who do you say that I am?*”

People: He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Leader: Church family, may God bless you with that same heavenly truth, revealing His deep love not by human wisdom, but by the Spirit within your heart. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

“Lobe den Herren”

Arr.: Frank W. Breazeale

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today were placed to the Glory of God
and in memory of Doris Arling, Donald O. Laabs and Joyce Laabs*

by Charmaine & Terry Johnson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elders of the Month: Laura Hall & Aileen McNair

Monday, August 24 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings

Tuesday, August 25 at 9 a.m. Shalom Bible Study

Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. LAST WATCH SUPPER

Friday, August 28 at 6 p.m. MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, August 30 at 11 a.m. Worship & BAPTISM / CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Monday, August 31 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings

Monday, August 31 at 10 a.m. Presbyterian Women Executive Board

LOVE OFFERING FOR FRANCIS KEY

Our longtime nursery and kitchen staffer, Francis Key, lost her husband, Johnny Robinson, August 22. Session voted to accept love offering donations to help Francis and her family during this difficult time. If you would like to contribute, please make out a separate check to FPC and put "love offering" in the memo line.

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY

Several young people in the church have spent the past year studying and we will celebrate with them during worship next Sunday, August 30th at 11 a.m. **Confirmands:** *Ford Bates, William Bius, Sadie Laurel Cato and Allegra Porteus.* William Bius & Allegra Porteus will also receive the sacrament of baptism.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUE

The first study is at Shalom on Tuesday mornings. We are reading *Second Thoughts About Hell* which explores all the ways Christians have thought about eternal judgment. The second study is our Wednesday night study and we are doing *Appreciate These Things: 8 Ways of Cultivating Compassion*. **We will continue our Wednesday night studies/programs even though suppers will be undergoing a transition at the end of the month.**

Both books are \$10 each. *Contact Austin to get your books: dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com*

MISSIONS DINNER: SEPTEMBER 20TH

This year's Missions Dinner to benefit the Fellowship for Disadvantaged Peoples in Bangladesh will be held at noon **Sunday, September 20th.** Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Patty June or the office. The menu for eat-in or take-out meals is Fried Chicken, Creamed Corn, Green Beans, Roll and Peach Cobbler.

MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR OUR LAST WATCH SUPPER

MENU for Wednesday, August 26:

Regular & Children: Brisket with brown gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Dinner roll

Diet: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar

Dessert: Strawberry Jello with fruit, Cookies & Ice Cream